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ARA/MEX PLEASE PASS SFRC STAFF DIRECTOR GERYLD B.
 CHRISTIANSON

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, MX, US
 SUBJECT: MEETING WITH SENATOR PORFIRIO MUNOZ LEDO

1. (C) - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. BEGIN SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO FRESHLY-MINTED
 SENATOR PORFIRIO MUNOZ LEDO (PML), THE NATIONAL
 DEMOCRATIC FRONT HAS ABANDONED ITS PREVIOUS CALL FOR A
 RECOUNT OF ABOUT HALF OF THE JULY 6 RETURNS AND WILL
 NOW PRESS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AN INTERIM PRESIDENT
 AND NEW ELECTIONS. THE FDN CONTINUES TO CHALLENGE THE
 LEGITIMACY OF SALINAS'S VICTORY, ALTHOUGH MUNOZ LEDO'S
 PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH MANY LEADING PRIISTAS REMAIN
 CORDIAL. SHOULD VIOLENCE BREAK OUT, THE SENATOR
 ASSERTED IT WOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE
 GOVERNMENT. THE FDN'S POLITICAL COMMISSION WILL MEET
 SEPTEMBER 6 TO PLAN ITS STRATEGY WHICH WILL INCLUDE
 MORE PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS. THE PRI-CONTROLLED SENATE
 HAS DENIED MUNOZ LEDO A SEAT ON THE FOREIGN RELATIONS
 COMMISSION, NAMING TWO OTHER FDN SENATORS INSTEAD.
 MUNOZ LEDO WAS BASICALLY UPBEAT ABOUT FUTURE U.S.-
 MEXICAN RELATIONS, INDICATING THAT CLEAR LEADERSHIP BY
 BOTH PRESIDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED. END SUMMARY.

3. NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT (FDN) TO SUPPORT CALL
 FOR NEW ELECTIONS.

DURING EVENING MEETING SEPTEMBER 5 AT HIS HOME,
 PORFIRIO MUNOZ LEDO TOLD SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
 COMMITTEE STAFF DIRECTOR CHRISTIANSON AND THE
 POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT THE FDN HAD DECIDED TO
 SUPPORT THE NATIONAL ACTION PARTY'S (PAN) POSITION OF
 CALLING FOR NEW ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO PML, THE
 OBJECTIVE WAS TO HAVE AN INTERIM PRESIDENT TAKE OFFICE

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IN DECEMBER FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF PURSUING THREE PRINCIPAL GOALS: NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, DRAFTING OF A NEW FEDERAL ELECTORAL CODE, AND A RESOLUTION OF MEXICO'S FOREIGN DEBT PROBLEM. THESE GOALS WOULD BE PURSUED BY CONSENSUS WITH A COALITION GOVERNMENT. AS A POSSIBLE INTERIM PRESIDENT, PML MENTIONED ATTORNEY GENERAL GARCIA RAMIREZ.

4. DURING THE MEETING, PML ALSO EXPLAINED THE CHANGE IN FDN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CUAUHEMOC CARDENAS'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO A VOTE RECOUNT. WHEREAS PREVIOUSLY CARDENAS HAD DEMANDED THAT RETURNS FROM SOME 25,000 POLLING STATIONS BE OPENED AND RECOUNTED, HIS LAST POSITION WAS THAT A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLING FROM SOME 1,000 POLLING STATIONS WOULD PROVIDE THE SAME RESULT. PML EXPLAINED THAT CARDENAS THINKS LIKE AN ENGINEER AND HAD DEVELOPED THIS NEW MATHEMATICAL FORMULA FOR REVIEWING THE RESULTS OF THE JULY 6 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. (COMMENT: THE PRI CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION THAT THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO RECOUNT OF ANY KIND AND THAT SALINAS WON THE ELECTION. THIS PROBABLY EXPLAINS THE SHIFT IN THE FDN POSITION.)

5. LEGITIMACY OF SALINAS'S VICTORY: RELATIONS WITH PRI.

PML SAID PRI SECRETARY GENERAL MANUEL CAMACHO SOLIS VISITED HIM ABOUT A MONTH AGO TO DISCUSS THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND TO SEEK FDN RECOGNITION OF SALINAS'S VICTORY. PML SAID HE TOLD CAMACHO THAT SALINAS HAD NOT WON A LEGITIMATE VICTORY AND WAS NOT SUPPORTED BY THE PEOPLE. MOREOVER, PML INDICATED THAT THE FDN WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE SALINAS'S LEGITIMACY FOR TO DO SO WOULD ENTAIL SACRIFICING ITS OWN LEGITIMACY IN THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE. IN COMMENTING ON THE SO-CALLED TECHNOCRATS AROUND SALINAS, PML SAID THIS GROUP HAS TRIED TO STIR UP CONFLICT BETWEEN DEMOCRATIC CURRENT MEMBERS AND EXPERIENCED PARTY PROFESSIONALS IN THE PRI. PML SAID HE AND SENATOR ALFONSO MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ WERE THE ONLY TWO FORMER PRI PRESIDENTS NOW SERVING IN THE SENATE AND THAT HE STILL ENJOYED GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH PRI STALWARTS SUCH AS FIDEL C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 MEXICO 22798

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VELAZQUEZ AND OTHERS.

6. POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE VIOLENCE AS A RESULT OF THE FDN/PAN REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE THE LEGITIMACY OF SALINAS'S VICTORY, PML SAID ANY OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE WOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT SINCE IT IS USURPING POWER WHICH ONLY THE PEOPLE CAN CONFER. HE THOUGHT THE ARMY WOULD SHOOT IF ORDERED TO DO SO BY THE GOVERNMENT BUT FELT THAT MANY SOLDIERS WERE WELL DISPOSED TOWARD CARDENAS WOULD PROBABLY BE RELUCTANT TO DO SO. PML THEN REHEARSED SEVERAL TIMES IN SPANISH A PARTICULARLY BITING SLOGAN HEARD DURING FDN RALLIES: "IF THE BALD ONE (I.E., SALINAS) IS IMPOSED, THERE WILL BE REVOLUTION."

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7. FDN POLITICAL STRATEGY.

WHEN CHRISTIANSON SAID HE HAD READ IN "UNIVERSAL" THAT THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE MIGHT ACT AS EARLY AS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 TO CERTIFY SALINAS AS THE VICTOR, PML SAID THE FDN POLITICAL COMMISSION WOULD BE MEETING THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 6 TO DECIDE UPON ITS STRATEGY IN THIS EVENTUALITY. AMONG THINGS TO BE DECIDED ARE WHEN AND WHERE TO CALL THE NEXT POLITICAL RALLY. PML POINTED OUT THAT CARDENAS IS THE ONLY MEXICAN POLITICAL LEADER WHO CAN CALL 100,000 MEXICANS INTO THE STREETS. PML INDICATED THAT THE PAN WOULD ALSO JOIN THE FDN AT A FUTURE RALLY IN DEFENSE OF THE VOTE.

8. DENIAL OF SEAT ON SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMISSION.

WITH A SMILE, PML DESCRIBED THE PROCEEDINGS EARLIER THAT DAY WHICH RESULTED IN THE SENATE DENYING HIM A SEAT ON THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMISSION OR ANY OF ITS FIVE SECTIONS. PML SAID HE HAD PREVIOUSLY FORMALLY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN A SEAT ON FOUR COMMISSIONS, INCLUDING FOREIGN RELATIONS AND GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT THE PRI MAJORITY HAD REFUSED TO ACCEDE TO HIS REQUEST. INSTEAD, HE WAS OFFERED A SEAT ON THE LIBRARY COMMISSION -- LAUGHINGLY, HE SAID HE LOVED BOOKS BUT THAT THIS COMMISSION WAS NOT TERRIBLY IMPORTANT -- AS WELL AS ON THE "ABSTRACT" JUSTICE COMMISSION. PML SAID FOREIGN SECRETARY SEPULVEDA WAS THE PERSON WHO DID NOT WANT HIM ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMISSION. THE PLOY BY THE PRI WAS TO GRANT SEATS ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO FDN SENATORS IFIGENIO MARTINEZ AND CRISTOBAL ARIAS AND THEN ARGUE THERE WERE ALREADY TWO FDN REPRESENTATIVES ON THIS COMMISSION. NEVERTHELESS, PML CONTINUED, HE HAD WON THE RIGHT TO BE INCLUDED IN INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS AND PLANNED TO PARTICIPATE.

9. WALKOUT DURING INFORME.

PML EXPLAINED THAT THE FDN POLITICAL COMMISSION HAD CONFERRED UPON HIM THE RESPONSIBILITY TO DECIDE WHETHER TO LEAD A WALKOUT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE PALACE DURING DE LA MADRID'S SIXTH "INFORME." PML SAID HE DECIDED TO WALK OUT AFTER DE LA MADRID REFUSED HIS "MOST RESPECTFUL" REQUEST TO ASK A QUESTION OF THE PRESIDENT.

10. U.S.-MEXICAN RELATIONS.

PML SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME DURING THE MEETING DISCUSSING BILATERAL RELATIONS, DESCRIBING HIS OWN EFFORTS AT THE START OF THE LOPEZ PORTILLO ADMINISTRATION TO ORGANIZE GROUPS TO STUDY VARIOUS BILATERAL PROBLEMS. PML SAID THERE WERE NO MORE COMPLICATED BILATERAL RELATIONS IN THE WORLD THAN BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND THAT OUR RESPECTIVE

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PRESIDENTS COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO RESOLVE ALL OF THESE PROBLEMS. WHAT WAS CALLED FOR, HE EMPHASIZED, WAS CLEAR LEADERSHIP ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER. IN

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THIS CONTEXT, HE REFERRED FAVORABLY TO PRESIDENT REAGAN'S LEADERSHIP ON EAST-WEST ISSUES AND WITHIN THE WESTERN ALLIANCE. THE NEXT MEXICAN AND AMERICAN PRESIDENTS MUST PROVIDE THIS TYPE OF LEADERSHIP GIVEN THE COMPLEXITY OF OUR RELATIONS. PML ARGUED THAT A POPULAR, STRONG MEXICAN PRESIDENT WOULD BE BETTER FOR U.S.-MEXICAN RELATIONS, INDICATING THAT LAZARO CARDENAS HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FDR'S GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY.

11. PRO-CARDENAS MEXICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY; UPCOMING VISITS.

PML SAID HE ENJOYS EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH NUMEROUS MEXICAN-AMERICAN GROUPS AND THAT THESE GROUPS ARE VERY SUPPORTIVE OF CARDENAS. HE DESCRIBED A RECENT VISIT TO FRESNO WHERE HE PARTICIPATED IN A DEBATE AND SAID HE PLANNED TO RETURN TO CALIFORNIA AND OREGON IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER. HE ALSO EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO VISIT WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH FRIENDS AND HOPED THAT CHRISTIANSON WOULD BE ABLE TO FACILITATE APPOINTMENTS WITH U.S. SENATORS. CHRISTIANSON AGREED TO BE HELPFUL.

12. COMMENT: PML WAS MOST ENGAGING AND FRIENDLY DURING THIS ONE-AND-ONE-HALF HOUR MEETING, EXHIBITING NONE OF THE ANTI-AMERICANISM FOR WHICH HE WAS NOTORIOUS AS MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.N. THE CLEAR MESSAGE OF THIS CONVERSATION IS THAT THE FDN IS DETERMINED TO CARRY ON WITH ITS CHALLENGE TO SALINAS AND THE PRI IN THE BELIEF THAT THE OFFICIAL PARTY DID NOT WIN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. HOWEVER, THE FACT REMAINS THAT THE PRI ENJOYS A 260-240 ADVANTAGE IN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND SALINAS WILL ULTIMATELY BE CERTIFIED PRESIDENT-ELECT, PERHAPS SOONER RATHER THAN LATER TO AVOID PROLONGING THE ISSUE.

13. CHRISTIANSON DEPARTED MEXICO CITY THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 6 AND DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW OR TO CLEAR THIS CABLE. GAMBLE

END OF MESSAGE

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